

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL

Farragut, Idaho

Historical Review

The U. S. Naval Hospital, commissioned January 15, 1943 at Farragut, Idaho, is one of the most complete hospital units in the Pacific Northwest; also the most modern and probably the largest in Idaho, Washington, Montana or Southern Canada. It is located in the pine forests on the shores of Idaho's famed Lake Pend Oreille adjoining the USN Center.

For practical purposes, its history can be divided into two distinct phases: (1) those involving acute cases in which the patients were composed largely of recruits undergoing "boot" training at the Center and (2) those cases which were composed of overseas casualties arriving on and after December 1944.

Medical Officer-in-Charge

Medical officer-in-charge when the Hospital was commissioned was Captain Harry S. Hardung (MC) USN. He has since been succeeded by the present officer-in-charge, Captain A. C. Smith (MC) USN. During its existence the Hospital has had ten executive officers.

Property & Accounting

Information supplied by the property and accounting office reveals that the site of the hospital originally included 177

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acres of uncleared land. Prior to the starting of the construction of the hospital unit, it was necessary to expend \$750,284.00 to prepare the site.

The original construction program provided for 44 wards, each capable of hospitalising 46 patients, and numerous auxiliary buildings such as the administration building, power plant, laundry, garage and maintenance unit.

In the fall of 1944 there were 14 additional wards added to the hospital and in addition a civilian annex was erected for Farragut Village, which lies in close proximity to the main gate of the Center. In the Spring of 1945 it became necessary to obtain added facilities to house the influx of patients at the hospital command. So in April of the same year, the Center area, known as Camp Beaman was transferred by the order of the Secretary of the Navy to the Hospital Command. Thus 1600 more beds were made available for convalescent patients.

Since commissioning in January 1943, the capital account of the Hospital has grown to a cost value of \$16,168,267.00. Of this total amount figures reveal land and buildings are valued at \$14,863,884.00, equipment at \$1,123,043.00 and supplies-on-hand at \$190,050.00.

A collateral duty of property and accounting is to supervise all Civil Service employees. Starting with a mere

handful of individuals in January 1943, the pressure of added hospital facilities, required from time to time the employment of a larger Civil Service Staff. In November 1945, this staff numbered 288 civilians.

SUMMARY

During the first half of this Hospital's existence, the Surgical Department was concerned with the emergency care of a huge number of trainees, particularly with surgical treatment destined to restore a large number of naval personnel for the performance of military duties.

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Thus, in 1943 and the first half of 1944, there were eight wards containing about 400 beds engaged in such reconstructive work as the repair of herniae, the excision of cyst-teratomata, hemorrhoidectomies, the removal of foci of infection, and the correction of minor congenital anomalies.

The increases in intensity of the war in the Pacific during the latter half of 1944 was quickly reflected in the character of surgery work here. From a total of eight wards, this department by the early part of 1945, had increased its size to 25 wards, all of which were used almost exclusively for overseas casualty patients.

Shortly before cessation of hostilities there were 1,125 active surgical patients being treated, not including convalescents and those awaiting transfer elsewhere.

Distribution of surgical wards at the time the Hospital was carrying its peak load of casualties is reflected in the following statistics:

Orthopedic Surgery.....	12
General Surgery.....	8
ENT.....	4
GU Surgery.....	1

Work of the general surgery department included an extensive amount of peripheral nerve surgery, removal of foreign bodies and a considerable amount of soft tissue correction; one ward being devoted exclusively to the care of patients suffering severe chest wounds.

Startling clinical pictures appeared in view of previous experience in traumatic surgery. One view gained was that of the magnificent task performed in the forward areas on the array of patients, who, judging by previous standards of treatment, should never have survived. This was most dramatically illustrated by those patients who had extensive bony injury under adverse circumstances and who yet arrived at this Hospital with a minimal amount of sepsis.

In 1943 there were 3,830 operative procedures performed, in 1944 the number was 4,619 and in 1945, up to September 1, 2,272. During this period there was a total of 11 deaths among surgical patients. When it is considered that more than half of these deaths had been the result of non-combat accidents, it is further eloquent testimony to a high type of surgical therapy in the field and the efficiency of transporting patients to the mainland.

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Closely allied and an integral part of the surgery department is the department of anaesthesia. This unit of the surgery department is amply supplied with all the apparatus and drugs necessary to provide any type of required anaesthesia.

Since its beginning the unit has been headed by a qualified specialist in anaesthesia and nurse technicians have served as required.

Facilities are available, not only for surgical anaesthesia but also for various diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The unit also has under its direction oxygen therapy. For this purpose there is available an "iron lung" and various oxygen and resuscitation units. Training in the use of this equipment is given to special nurses and Hospital corpsmen.

Medicine

From the opening of the hospital in January of 1943 to approximately December of 1944 all patients needing hospitalization came from the recruit training camps of the U. S. Naval Training Center, Farragut, Idaho. The majority of these cases were acute infectious and contagious diseases such as: atypical pneumonia, lobar pneumonia, streptococcal infections, scarlet fever, measles, mumps, and rubella fever. In the Spring of 1944 there were eight wards devoted entirely to the care of lobar pneumonia and in the Fall of 1944 there were approximately 16 wards devoted entirely to scarlet fever cases. Also at this time there were 9 wards devoted to the care of rheumatic cases.

During the first two years of the existence of the hospital, chronic medicine played a minor role in that only two wards were required for the care of these patients and only 1 ward devoted to measles and one ward to mumps with a few scattered cases of chicken pox. In the summer of 1944 there was a small epidemic of diphtheria involving 40 patients, the larger part being carriers, and all cleared up under penicillin therapy.

There were approximately 85 cases of therapeutic poisoning, sulfadiazine and 18 cases, three of which died, of agranulocytopenia malignant following the advent of the sulfadiazine prophylaxis program on the Training Center.

With the closing of the recruit training camps at U. S. Naval Training Center and the admission of patients from overseas the composite picture of the Hospital changed from acute cases to chronic cases. The Dermatology Service grew from one ward to seven wards and the G.I. service increased from half a ward to three wards. The remainder of the cases on the medical service were chronic diseases such as: cardiac diseases, diseases of the lung, vascular system, central nervous system, peripheral nervous system, urinary system, muscular system, arthritis of all types, filariasis, malaria, and intestinal parasites. The total number of wards in use by the Medical Department at the peak load August 1945, was 27 wards.

The mortality rate for lobar pneumonia was far below the rate existing prior to the advent of sulfa drugs and penicillin. The number of deaths from agranulocytopenia malignant was 3 out of 18 cases, which is a remarkable record for this type of disease.

The mortality rate in this Hospital has been exceedingly low. Since the cessation of the war the number of medical cases has diminished rapidly. By November 1945, there were 11 wards in use for the care of medical cases.

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The neuropsychiatric service at first consisted of only one ward with about a dozen patients. Until the middle of 1944 one ward was sufficient, with an average population of around 30, with one psychiatrist in charge. By the latter part of 1944 it had grown to require two wards, each under the charge of a psychiatrist. In the following months expansion was rapid until the summer of 1945, when the N. P. population exceeded 1100 and it became necessary to move most of the department to Camp Bennion. The psychiatric staff at that time totaled 7 physicians. Following V-J Day the number of psychiatric patients steadily decreased.

Commissary

In accordance with existing records, the Commissary at the Naval Hospital, Farragut, Idaho was opened officially January 15, 1943.

When under operation it was found that the patient load was considerably under estimated, as the equipment installed would only accommodate 2500 patients and staff complement. Vegetable storage space was practically non-existing and refrigerator space was too small by fifty per cent. The butcher shop would only allow 3 men to work. The Officer's Mess was one-fourth mile from the central part of the hospital with no shelter connections, in consequence this Mess was not opened, it was impractical. Thus,

a temporary arrangement, (one corner of the General Mess Hall) was utilized. This had a seating capacity of 90 for the staff of Officers and Nurses. The Mess functioned under General Mess conditions for one year.

Apparently this Commissary opened with about 45 officers, 81 nurses, 827 enlisted staff and 574 patients for the first three months.

Due to the isolated locality away from cities or employment centers, civilian employees for serving lines, cooks, etc. were almost impossible to obtain. This made it very difficult to operate during this organization period. The expenditures for provisions amounted to \$109,005.38 the first quarter.

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The second quarter of 1943, the complement stepped up considerably due to the opening of the Corps School of about 400 personnel. Officers for this quarter numbered 60, nurses 135, enlisted personnel, (including Corps School) 1142, and patients 1584. Commissary expenditures amounted to \$171,186.57 for this period.

The third and fourth quarters were uneventful except the load increased to 72 officers, 157 nurses, 1435 enlisted personnel (including Corps School) and 1698 patients. Expenditures for these two quarters amounted to \$347,051.05.

On January 1, 1944, the patient and staff load had reached the point where operating under existing conditions were almost impossible. Five months later a fifty per cent increase in re-

frigeration, vegetable preparation room, butcher shop, mess hall and storage space with equipment was completed. Also better arrangements were made with a new Navy Marketing Center to supply the Commissary with fresh meats, vegetables and dairy products.

During the first half of 1944 the necessary equipment for a new Officers' Mess and an independent Nurses' Mess at their own quarters was obtained. The equipment being on hand, an ice cream unit was installed and put in operation.

A regular heating cart room was established where carts were delivered one and one-half hours before serving to be plugged in the electric contacts and filled.

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By August 15, 1945 the Commissary reached the peak load with nearly 6000 persons or 18,000 meals per day being served.

Dental Department

The Dental Department in this Hospital received its first dental case on 12 February 1943. At that time the Dental Clinic consisted of two dental operating units, one dental officer and one dental technician. During the ensuing few months a request was made for two additional dental officers and the enlisted complement was increased to five dental technicians. The mission of the Dental Department at this time was to provide operative and surgical dental care for patients, staff and students of the Hospital Corps School. Due to the increased demands for dental treatment, plans were made for new construction to accommodate six additional units. On 29 May 1944 the new Dental

Clinic was placed in commission. It consisted of six rooms for operative dentistry, two rooms for oral surgery only, a sterilizing room, x-ray room, store room, officers' locker room, corporals' locker room, senior dental officer's office and waiting room. The complement of dental officers was raised to a total of nine and the complement of dental technicians general was raised to a total of nine. A Navy nurse was employed full-time in the oral surgery rooms. A chain of sterile technique was then developed for all operations in the oral surgery clinic. Canvas packs were made by the linen room with separate compartments for forceps, retractors, and all surgical instruments that may be required for extractions in certain areas such as: upper right molar packs, upper left molar packs, lower molar packs, etc. This method of sterilization and instrument storage enabled the personnel of the oral surgery clinic to accomplish a good record of surgical cases with a minimum of infections.

In order to maintain accurate records, a card for examination and treatment was designed for the three types of dental cases coming to the clinic.

In January of 1945 large numbers of convalescent patients from the Pacific area were received in this hospital. In order to accommodate the large influx of patients, Camp Bennion, a part of the Naval Training Center, was made available to this Hospital. The two dispensaries in Camp Bennion contained seventeen additional

dental units. The complement of dental officers was raised to a total of twenty dental technicians general. This facilitated using one of the two dispensaries. No prosthetic facilities were provided, as the Naval Training Center, which is adjacent to the Hospital, contained a large prosthetic activity. The highest average complement occurred in August 1945 with a total dependent upon this activity for dental treatment of 5,642 and the average turnover for this particular month totaled 4,351.

During the war three classes of dental technicians general have been trained in this Hospital. The first two classes consisted of Waves entirely, whereas, the last class consisted of one Wave and five hospital corpsmen. A complete course of lectures, demonstrations, and clinical instructions as defined by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Catalog of Hospital Corps Schools and Courses was carried out. All students graduating received their certificate in dental technology, general. During the course of instruction each student received expert instruction in oral prophylaxis through the personal teaching and clinics of a qualified dental hygienist, Wave. The Dental Department in this Hospital inserted 22,973 restorations and completed 16,764 dental patients during the period of this report. The records show a total of 98,542 sittings or visits of patients. All students who were graduated from the Hospital Corps School were dentally completed and their records certified as essential dental treatment completed. The equipment supplied has been excellent and the expendable items sufficient.

Nurses

At the time of commissioning of the Hospital, one Lt. (jg) and thirteen Ensigns reported for duty. The Hospital rapidly enlarged in its census of patients, thus necessitating additions to wards; and consequently more nurses were added.

The beginning of the second year showed a nurse census of one hundred and fifty Ensigns. The modernly equipped family hospital in Farragut Village demanded several nurses especially trained in pediatrics and obstetrics. Other departments in the Hospital called for nurses trained in surgery and anesthesia.

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In January of 1945, the third year of the Hospital's service, the nurses census had risen to 174; increasing to a peak of 220 June, 1945. The census as of November 20, 1945 showed a total of 147 nurses.

M & S Record Office

In its main function of administering to the medical records of all patients attached to the Hospital, the M & S Record office reports the following noteworthy statistics:

1. From 15 January 1943 to 7 November 1945, a total of 43,496 patients had been admitted and discharged from the Hospital.
2. A sampling of the Hospital census on specific dates as follows:

- a. 31 December 1943.....1893 patients.
- b. 31 December 1944.....1690 patients.
- c. 1 September 1945.....3542 patients.
- d. 7 November 1945.....1060 patients

3. Number of deaths recorded:

- a. In the year of 1943.....57
- b. In the year of 1944.....62
- c. In the year of 1945.....12

4. Personnel assigned to office as of November 1945.

- a. Civilian Personnel.....13
- b. V-10 Personnel.....13
- c. Male Corpsemen.....8
- d. Officer Personnel.....3

Waves

June 8, 1943, the first Waves reported to the Naval Hospital for duty. By December 31, 1943, the complement had reached a total of two officers and 67 enlisted personnel. One year later, four officers and 206 enlisted women were aboard. In November 1945, six officers and 171 enlisted Waves were on duty in the various departments of the Hospital.

Laboratory

The Laboratory in the U. S. Naval Hospital at Farragut, Idaho, was established as a department of the Hospital in February 1943, one month after the Hospital opened. One officer and twenty corpsmen made up the staff, about half of which were trained laboratory technicians. The laboratory immediately embarked on a busy schedule during the first year of its operation, performing 111, 217 test procedures of all types. During this same period the assigned work was performed in eight rooms in one of the wings of the "B" section of the Hospital, the morgue and the animal house located behind the Hospital. A special feature of the laboratory was an

During the period of the laboratory's operation it was designated by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as a school for the training of medical technologists. Every three months four or more new students entered the course of study and trained for a period of six months. Sixty-six students received diplomas in medical technology from this institution.

In general, the laboratory has performed nearly all conceivable laboratory procedures, other than the more complex hormone analysis.

Out-Patient and In-Patient Department

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The Out-Patient and In-Patient Departments of the U. S. Naval Hospital, Farragut, Idaho, opened on 1 February 1943 for the care of eligible Navy, Coast Guard and Marine dependents.

This department had a bed capacity of 32 patients excluding all new born babies, consisting of two, two bed rooms; one, four bed solarium; one, five bed ward; six, one bed rooms; three, three bed wards; one pediatric four infant crib ward and a twelve bassinet nursery. In addition a delivery room with standard equipment and the other necessary rooms are in this department.

One medical officer, assisted by a staff of 12 Navy nurses, nine Wives and two carpenters carry on the work of the two units.

The Out-Patient Department was located in the surgical wing of the U. S. Naval Hospital. The Out-Patient portion of this wing consisted of two fully equipped consultations and treatment rooms for medical, surgical, obstetrical, and gynecological cases. In addition there was one pediatric treatment and waiting room.

active Blood Bank. Volunteer donors, receiving no payment, were recruited from the students of the Hospital Corps School. The Blood Bank prepared and stored whole blood and in addition processed blood for the preparation of liquid plasma. During 1943, 146 transfusions of whole blood, 500 c.c. each, were given; 144 units of plasma, 250 c.c. per unit, were also dispensed.

In 1944, the work of the laboratory increased steadily and the personnel mounted to about 30. For 1944, 124,779 procedures were accomplished. The Blood Bank gave 249 transfusions of whole blood and 335 units of plasma. In November of 1944 additional space was granted the laboratory in two places. A large room in the Admission Building was allotted to the laboratory. A branch laboratory, performing standard hematology procedures and urinalysis, was opened in the new Out-Patient Building in Farragut Village. The more complex laboratory procedures demanded by the Out-Patient Department continued to be referred to the main laboratory.

In the first ten months of 1945, the laboratory performed 81,469 procedures and the Blood Bank gave 153 whole blood transfusions and 150 plasma units. With the closing of the Hospital Corps School in September 1945, the operation of the Blood Bank was discontinued. Transfusions were continued on a professional donor basis and prepared plasma was obtained from other sources. During the latter half of 1945, especially following the cessation of hostilities, the work of the laboratory gradually decreased and the personnel was proportionately diminished.

A Civilian Dispensary was also maintained in Farragut Village. This was manned by one part-time Medical Officer, one Navy nurse and one Wave.

Replacing the Out-Patient Department in the U. S. Naval Hospital and the Civilian Dispensary, the Civilian Annex Dispensary located in Farragut Village, just adjacent to the main gate of the U. S. Naval Center, was opened on 13 November 1944.

The clinic is manned by four regularly assigned Medical Officers, a full-time intern, two Navy nurses, one Chief Pharmacist Mate, six corpsmen, and three Waves. The Chief Pharmacist Mate is detailed as Administrative Assistant, a registered pharmacist and laboratory technician are detailed to the pharmacy and to the laboratory, four corpsmen are detailed to ambulance driving and three Waves are detailed to the Appointment Office.
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The pharmacy is equipped to fill all routine prescriptions for patients and stock prescriptions for use in the clinic.

The laboratory is equipped for routine laboratory procedures. Specialized laboratory procedures and X-rays are done at the U. S. Naval Hospital.

The office keeps a record of each patient including a complete history, all examinations, treatments, laboratory tests and other data.

On 16 June 1945 the In-Patient Department was moved to the Civilian Annex Hospital in Farragut Village. This Department occupies the two previously unused wings of the building. One

wing is devoted to obstetrical cases and includes four, two bed rooms; one, four bed ward; two labor rooms; one fully equipped delivery room; a sixteen bassinet nursery with formula galley; supply room equipped with an autoclave; utility room and five heads.

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The other wing is devoted to surgical and medical cases and includes one, four bed ward; one two bed room; three private rooms which can be used as isolation rooms when necessary; four heads and a utility room. Surgery occupies the far end of this wing and consists of an operating room, scrub room, supply room and doctor's dressing room.

An additional Pediatric ward was added in September 1945 to take care of the increased number of children admitted to the hospital. This ward has four cribs with an adequate supply of clothing and blankets for children of all ages. A pediatrician is in charge.

The In-Patient Department is staffed by thirteen Navy nurses, five corpsmen, ten Waves and is supervised by the Medical Officer in charge of the clinic.

Statistical report of patients hospitalized during months
of February 1943 through December 1943.

Operations:

Minor	50
Major	34
Pediatrics	30
Obstetrical	138
General Medicine	131
Gynecological	49
Miscellaneous	16
Total.....	<u>398</u>

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Report of Out-Patient Department for February 1943 through
December 1943.

Obstetrical cases	1697
Medical cases	1895
Gynecological cases	1130
Pediatric cases	1514
Total.....	<u>7204</u>

Other Services

EENT	470
Orthopedics	93
Physiotherapy	80
EEG & EKG	190
X-Ray	279
Laboratory	2350
Vaccine, immunizations, etc.	578
Special (Consultations, etc.)	<u>131</u>
Total.....	<u>10407</u>

Report of patients hospitalized for 1944 from 31 December
1943 to 1 January 1945.

Operations:

Major	64
Minor	129
Pediatrics	100
Parturitions	298

Obstetrical	316
Gynæcological	97
General Medicine	175
Orthopedics	19
Surgical	107
Total	714

Report of Out-Patient Department of 1944 from 31 December
1943 to 1 January 1945.

Obstetrical	2971
Medical	2434
Gynæcological	2470
Pediatric	2652
EENT	773
Orthopedic	172
Allergy	132
Special Consultations	278
Total	11932

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Other Procedures:

Physiotherapy	303
HHR & EKG	473
Laboratory	5026
Injections and immunizations	1337
X-ray	270
Total	19341

Report of Civilian Dispensary for the year 1944.

Total civilian office calls	822
Total civilian house calls	211
Total civilian humanitarian calls	21
Total cash collected	\$984.00

Report of patients hospitalized from 1 January 1945 to 1 November 1945.

Operations:

Major	84
Minor	218
Deaths:	6
EENT	44
Pediatrics	106
Parturitions	193
Obstetrics	250
Gynæcological	45

Gynecological surgery	41
Orthopedic	1
Orthopedic surgery	4
General surgery	96
General Medicine	154
No Disease	6
Others	118
Total	841

Report of Out-Patient Department from 1 January 1945 to 1 November 1945.

Obstetrics	2536
Medicine	2420
Gynecological	2281
Pediatrics	3990
Total	11353

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Other procedures:

Laboratory	5502
Injections and immunizations	559

Other Services:

ENT	186
Eye Clinic	79
Orthopedics	46
Physiotherapy	33
EEG & EKG	179
Special Consultations	155
X-ray	215
Dermatology	45
Neuropsychiatry	6
Dental	2

Operations:

Minor gynecological	421
Minor orthopedic	1
Minor emergency	82

Enlisted Personnel	122
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Report of civilian office and house calls and Navy house calls from 1 January 1945 to 1 November 1945.

Civilian office calls	568
Civilian house calls	20

Humanitarian office calls 5
Humanitarian house calls 25
Total cash collected \$550.00
Navy house calls 56

Patients hospitalized from February 1943 to 1 November 1945 ...
1953

Total clinic patients from February 1943 to 1 November 1945 ...
30489

Maintenance Department

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Maintenance has the responsibility of caring for grounds,
buildings, the laundry, heating plant and the garage.

On 15 November 1945, 110 civilian personnel, supervised
by one naval officer, were employed in the department. These
workers were classified and listed as follows:

Firemen	34
Laundry Operators	24
Electricians	4
Gardeners	6
General Helpers	4
Joiners	10
Painters	7
Pipefitters	4
Laborers	10

The central heating plant provides the necessary steam for
space and water heating and sterilization. From approximately
1 November 1944 to 1 November 1945 24,000 tons of coal were used
for these purposes. Steam production varies from less than
20,000 pounds per hour in the summer months to 60,000 pounds per hour
in the winter period. The Hospital Corps School, Camp Beamin
and the Corpsmen Barracks are serviced by additional heating
units.

The well equipped modern laundry handles an average of 220,000 pieces of linen per month and on occasion a maximum of 300,000 pieces have been processed. To accomplish this work the following materials are ordinarily used each quarter:

Soap Chips	13,500 lbs.
Water Softener	11,250 lbs.
Alkali	2,250 lbs.
Washing Soda	2,250 lbs.
Bleaching	1,100 lbs.
Bluing	6 lbs.

During a months period 300 gallons of wax and 150 gallons of paint are required in the maintenance of hospital buildings.

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Minor repairs and storage of automotive vehicles are cared for at the hospital garage. The necessary number of units required for service at the hospital have been furnished by the Transportation Department, of the USNC, Farragut, Idaho.

Civil Readjustment Office

The Civil Readjustment Office was officially established at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Farragut, Idaho on 21 September 1944. Prior to its establishment, the program was carried on by the M & S Record Office of the Hospital.

The functions of the office constitute the final phase of the Rehabilitation Program for separation of military active service and preparing the individual for return to civilian status.

For the year of 1943, approximately 300 naval personnel were processed through this activity. In 1944, about 1300 cases were handled; 1945 another 3200. During the peak month, October 1945, about 900 personnel were processed or partially processed.

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One officer, two pharmacist mates and one Wave corpsman made up the staff charged with the operation of the Civil Readjustment Office.

Insurance

The Insurance, War Bond, and Family Allowance Office was place in operation in November, 1943.

The function of this office is and has been to aid and assist the staff and patients of this activity with all phases of their insurance, war bond and family allowance needs. The officer in charge acts as a "channel" in communications with the Veterans Administration and the Bureau of Naval Personnel from service personnel.

During the year of 1943 approximately 500 men were processed for discharge. In 1944 approximately 1300 were processed, and up to the time of writing approximately 3200 have been processed during the year of 1945; the peak month was October when approximately 900 men were processed.

The majority of these discharges were "medical" "surveys" and great emphasis was placed on the fact that they could continue their insurance without ever having to take another physical examination. Each group of discharges were given insurance lectures and shown a movie explaining National Service Life Insurance and its many benefits. At the close of this lecture each man was given a prepared pamphlet and invited to discuss any insurance problem with the insurance officer prior to discharge.

Through the cooperation of the M & S Record Office, a list of men who have been totally disabled for a period of six months or longer is furnished the Insurance Office. Patients are phoned and urged to apply for the waiver of premiums. In this manner almost 100% of men who were disabled for six months or longer have made application of waiver of premiums. During the peak months over 50 applications were completed daily.

Request for change of beneficiary has been given wide publicity through posters and every effort has been made to bring beneficiary designation of personnel up to date.

13/ Questions concerning conversion to a permanent form of National Service Life Insurance has been of interest to many personnel. Information and advise is furnished all interested individuals.

War Bonds have been an integral part of this office, and although no statistical data can be given, much credit and praise has been given to this command during all bond drives and allotment deductions. Pay roll deductions for civilian personnel has been maintained in the 90% class recommended by the Secretary of the Navy.

Statistical Data Compiled to Nov. 1945

	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>
Family allowance applications completed	51	131	182
Family allowance applications partially completed	9	15	0
Applications for Change of Beneficiary	5	108	305
Application for National Service Life Insurance	2	67	40

Conversion of NSI Term to 20 Pay Life, 30 Pay Life or Ordinary Life	1	24	56
Conversion of GI Term to 20 Pay Life, 30 Pay Life or Ordinary Life	0	1	2
Application for Waiver of Premium Payment.....	0	44	936

Red Cross

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The American National Red Cross opened an office at this hospital in February 1943. The Field Director was the only representative at this time. The function of the Red Cross was discussed with Captain H. S. Harding, Commanding Officer. It was agreed that the Red Cross would extend their services to patients, duty personnel and Corps School.

During the first eight months of 1943, social services only were carried on by the Red Cross representatives because of the type of patients and nature of the illnesses, there were many contacts with relatives of patients through our channels of Red Cross Home Chapters. Many of the patients were in isolation from contagious diseases and the Red Cross was the only medium of communication between the sick servicemen and his family. The tremendous volume of this service can be shown by our statistics. In February 1943, 113 letters were written in behalf of or at the request of servicemen. The peak month was reached in October 1943, when there were 873. There were very few loans made in 1943. The majority were requested because of emergencies at home. Later in the year, the Red Cross staff was increased. The average number of workers during 1943 was five.

Adequate ward coverage was given. The psychiatrists and medical officers requested many social and medical histories to aid them in treatment and diagnosis.

In April of 1943 plans were agreed upon between the Commanding Officer and the Field Director for the Red Cross to assist the men being surveyed to file their claims for pension. This type of service has increased tremendously as the Hospital census grew.

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It was not till August of 1943 that an organized Red Cross Recreation Program was set up with an assignment here of a Recreation Worker. This worker planned entertainment in co-operation with communities and the Navy Welfare and Recreation Officer as well as activities sponsored by Red Cross. These Red Cross activities were crafts, games and entertainment held in the wards and in the Red Cross Recreation Office which at that time was space allotted to us in a ward. Special parties were held to commemorate national holidays. Christmas is always made a special event. In cooperation with Welfare and Recreation Department and community organizations every patient and duty personnel are remembered with gifts. Christmas trees are placed in every ward and the auditorium.

In the year 1944, the Social Service Department continued to give ward coverage. The number of contagious diseases dropped and with this there was a decrease in the number of letters written to families of the patients.

However, emergencies at home and home problems were still numerous. Many of these required telegraphic reports because of their nature. The number of medical surveys increased; consequently our work of assisting in filing claims for pensions.

The Recreation Department was more active. More entertainment and ward parties were planned. Ward movies under the Red Cross were begun in June of 1944 and have continued since that time. There was an increased staff available to plan all recreational activities.

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In December 1944, the tempo of the Hospital began to change as we had our first draft of overseas casualties.

In 1945 because of the change in the type of patient, our services have been on more of an emergent basis. The men are older and have had battle experience. Many of these men have been away from home for one to three years. For these reasons they are anxious about home conditions. Numerous telegraphic inquiries were made through our Red Cross Chapters to secure home condition reports. On the other hand, the families at home wanted health and welfare reports on their sons or husbands. The peak month of telegraphic inquiries was September 1945 when 336 wires were sent and 280 received.

As many of these men were surveyed from this Hospital, the largest part of our work has been to assist these men in filing claims for pension. The peak was reached in September 1945 when we helped 770 men file for claims. Our staff, both in the Social Service Department and the Recreation Department, was increased due to the growing patient census.

Camp Bennion Recreation Building was opened for Red Cross activities and was manned by a Recreation Staff member. It was extensively used by all the ambulatory patients. In October of 1945 due to the closing of the barracks at Bennion this activity was moved into the Hospital.

Statistics for the three years of Red Cross operation at the Hospital are as follows:

No. of Loans:

1943 71
1944 106
1945 655 to Nov. 1st
TOTAL ... 832

Total Recorded Cases:

1943 3,532
1944 3,856
1945 4,117 to Nov. 1st
TOTAL ... 11,505

Average Number Red Cross Personnel:

1943 5
1944 8
1945 11
TOTAL ... 17 on
Nov. 1, 1945

Claims for Pensions Filed:

1943 453
1944 1163
1945 3842
TOTAL ... 5458

Recreation Statistics:

1943 144 Entertainments & Ward Parties

	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>
Entertainments	543	432
Ward Parties	479	298
Ward Movies	401	620

Staff Personnel

When this Hospital was commissioned 15 January 1943, the following staff was on duty:

Male Officers	55
Nurses	89
Hospital Corpman	164

Report of Male Officers is as follows:

1 April 1944	79
1 January 1945	78
1 July 1945	106
15 October 1945	131
2 November 1945	123

Supply and Disbursing Department

A history of the Supply Department, as such, in reality is a history of the Disbursing function, since a Clothing and Small Stores is the only other activity operated by the Supply and disbursing Officer in addition to the responsibility of seeing that all at the Hospital are paid for their services, both military and civilian personnel.

Very shortly after the Hospital was placed in commission on January 15, 1943, it became apparent that for the personnel to be paid regularly, a disbursing office distinct and separate from the Training Center, already having their hands full with their own problems, should be set up.

Accordingly, one officer along with three rated store-keepers, all assigned out of Seattle, set up for business on February 4, 1943 in the narrow corridor on the second deck of the Administration Building. Here, in the space assigned the officer and men disbursed an average of \$200,000.00 a month in the relatively early, bewildering days of getting the office organized and running efficiently.

In the middle of 1943, another officer, was welcomed aboard as assistant to the Disbursing Officer. As 1943 went into the closing months, the volume of disbursements mounted steadily, reflecting an increase in the census of the Hospital and the last

day of December the figure of \$2,047,122.68 represented the total amount of disbursements of military and civil payrolls and public vouchers for the first ten months of operations.

Steadily increasing daily and monthly, disbursements were the main feature of the department. During 1944 when the fortunes of war and the tide of battle swung over to the allies, the total yearly disbursements were very close to three million dollars. In June of 1944, the office moved into the newly completed quarters now occupied.

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The volume of disbursements continued to increase throughout the 1945 summer months of final victory in the war and reached a peak of \$453,775.81 in disbursements during August. At this time, the total number of accounts carried on the disbursing rolls reached within two hundred of five thousand and represented an all time high for the activity.

Because of the large volume of work, coupled with insufficient space for operation, it was deemed advisable in August to open up a branch office and accordingly on the 7th, the Bennion annex, housing all enlisted accounts, was opened for business. The Bennion office was recently reincorporated into the main office when the volume of work lessened sufficiently to warrant the move.

The current year, with two months business to go, still was by far the biggest year since the office was established, totaling disbursements of \$3,856,716.14 and bringing the grand

total of disbursements for the office from February 1943,
through October 1943, to the staggering sum of \$8,410,515.41.

Records of the office, in the thirty three months of operation, reveal expenditures of funds for everything from broccoli to blood and collections for every thing from the price of electricity to the sale of deserter's effects. The smallest sum ever collected represented a twenty-cent deposit on room and board by a civil employee and the largest amount ever expended occurred one day in July of this year when staff and patient personnel received \$60,453.00 in military pay.
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Since its beginning, in addition to paying all civil employees, disbursing has paid personnel of the Navy as officers, nurses, Waves and enlisted men of the staff, patients and corps school, as well as Coast Guardsmen and Marines.

As the patients come and go and the government's money continues to be collected and expended, the disbursing office will be a needed and important function as long as there exists a Hospital.

The story of the Clothing and Small Stores section of the supply department, is one of the necessity for filling the great need of patients and staff to purchase needed items of apparel. To meet this demand, a store was set up in the Camp Bennion Ship's Service Building on the 8th of May of this year. Sales volume necessitated adding two more people to the original staff of two who opened the store. Through October, total sales reached

a figure of \$57,360.62 with largest sales during the month of July.

Fire Department

Station No. 3 of the Naval Center Fire Department assigned to the Hospital area went into service at 1300, 15 January 1943 and was equipped with Engines No. 3 and 4 until 0850, December 1944 when Station No. 4 went into service. At this time, the building housing Station No. 4 was placed into service and Engine No. 4 was transferred from Station House No. 3.

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These two stations are now manned by 20 men. Engine No. 3 is a 750 G.P.M. Seagrave, Engine No. 4, a 500 G.P.M. Ford pumper. Each of these engines carry 1000 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, 300 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, 250 gallon water booster pump, 24 foot extension ladder with 12 foot roof ladder, asbestos suits, gas masks and other hand tools and equipment. Station No. 4 is also equipped with a resuscitator outfit.

Stations No. 3 and 4 are a part of the Naval Center Fire Department assigned to the Hospital area and also handle any overlap on fire alarms adjacent to the hospital area. For the period from 15 January 1943 to date, we submit the following data:

Alarms answered: 64 telephone alarms for fire
 53 box alarms for fire
 145 box alarms for drills
 4 still alarms for fire

Time spent in answering alarms 113.3 hours

Mileage covered 415.5 miles

Equipment used: 20 pump cans
 24 foot ladder used 20 times

Hose laid as follows: 2^{1/2"} hose 45,700 feet
1^{1/2"} hose 7,650 feet

Booster or 3/4" hose 4,350 feet

Approximate damage estimated \$10,500.00

In addition, various equipment from Stations No. 1 and 2 answered the following alarms in the Hospital area to supplement the apparatus regularly assigned there.

Alarms answered: 8 telephone alarms for fire
29 box alarms for fire
76 box alarms for drills

Time spent in answering alarms 33.5 hours

Mileage covered 854.3 miles

Equipment used: 50 foot ladder
6 pump cans

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The Naval Center Fire Department has 3 engine companies, 1 truck company, 1 tank truck, 1 emergency lighting apparatus which would supplement Engine No. 3 and 4 should there be a fire of large involvement in the Hospital area.

Pharmacy

When the Pharmacy began full operations in January 1943 it employed a staff of eight registered pharmacists. In its initial year, the pharmacy filled 22,875 prescriptions. In 1944 the number of prescriptions compounded rose to 34,312. By the beginning of the last quarter of 1945, 30,488 prescriptions had been filled.

Penicillin was first used in October of 1943 and roughly 200 vials were dispensed for the three-month period. In 1944 roughly one-half billion units (15,000 ampules) were used and about 26,000 ampules have been used so far in 1945.

In 1944 more than 3,000 tablets were used per week and with the increasing use of penicillin, the use dropped to approximately 1,000 tablets per week.

Staff Personnel Office

The Staff Personnel Office is responsible for the detailing of the enlisted staff to the various departments of the Hospital Command.

A total of 164 enlisted personnel were assigned to the Hospital in January 1943. When 1943 closed this staff had been increased to 630 Hospital Corps ratings.

The summer of 1945 showed 1008 Corps rates assigned to duty, which had dropped to 966 by the middle of November 1945.

An over-all average complement for the entire period of the Hospital's operation numbers 941 personnel.

Provost Marshall

Discipline cases handled by this department for both staff and patient personnel are as follows:

1943 Monthly Average	75
1944 Monthly Average	200
1945 Monthly Average	145

Hospital Brig census is as follows:

1943 Monthly Average	6
1944 Monthly Average	20
1945 Monthly Average	18

The Security Department consisting of one officer and nine enlisted men with the aid of an efficient Master-at-Arms Department carried on the work jointly with the Provost Marshall, who checks the Bag Room.

Library

The Hospital Library, located in the recreation building, near Ship's Service, opened March 11, 1943. It started with an initial collection of 2,000 books. The regular shipments from the Bureau of Naval Personnel, plus the many purchases through the Welfare Department fund have increased the book collection to 9,200; fiction and non-fiction, covering almost every field of reading. It recently acquired over 200 school catalogs; they have been of special interest to the men planning to return to school under the GI Bill of Rights.

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The library subscribes to fifty-five popular magazines and sixteen of the country's leading newspapers. Many "gift" books and several "gift" magazine subscriptions have added variety to the collection. Subscriptions to five and ten copies of the periodicals allow for distribution in the wards.

A regular program of ward work was started in December 1943; emphasis being placed on wards where the patients were predominately bed-patients. When enough help was provided, every ward was visited once a week; this set-up continued until last month when ward work to the I section was discontinued; the many uppatients preferred to come to the library. The library circulates approximately 200 books per day, three-fourths of which are circulated in the wards. Fiction books are most frequently called for since reading of that type is restful and relaxing.

Until October of 1945 the library had two branches, the Camp Bennion library, and the Hospital Corps School Library.

The Bennion branch was added when Camp Bennion closed as a recruit training camp. The Corps School library closed, October 26, 1945, and the Bennion library closed November 6 of this year.

Various changes have come in the physical set-up of the Hospital Library. It was remodeled during the summer of 1944 to increase its seating capacity, and much needed shelving space.

Another improvement, one along a different line, came when the Commanding Officer approved the expenditure of \$75.00 per month from the Welfare fund for the purchase of new books.

Except for a short time the staff has included two trained civilian librarians. This number was increased to three from January 1945 to November 1945. When there were just the two trained librarians, the senior librarian on the station arranged for two of the "boot" camp librarians to assist with ward work two afternoons each week. In addition to the librarians, the staff has included from one to four Wives who do much of the clerical routine work.

Post Office

Postal service was immediately put into operation with the opening of the Hospital. The post office started in temporary quarters and with limited personnel, but was gradually expanded as conditions demanded it.

For the year, 1 November 1944, to 1 November 1945, the Hospital Post Office, a branch of the Station Post Office, transacted stamp business of over \$40,000, issued 14,532 money orders, insured 6,398 pieces of out-going parcels, and registered 1,846

pieces of out-going mail. The office is operated with a complement of eight rated mailmen.

Chaplain's Department

Since 26 January 1943, the Chaplain's Department has had much influence upon the welfare and spiritual guidance of many thousands of men ranging from the Navy "boot" through the overseas veteran, (Navy, Coast Guard, Seabees, Marine Corps). At the time when this department was set up, one Protestant Chaplain was assigned to duty. With the increase in patient load in 1945, it was necessary to add two additional chaplains, not only to provide the optimum in spiritual guidance and welfare for these men but also to interview the great numbers being discharged to civilian life and to duty.

The following statistics are given to show this part of the work of the Chaplain's Department of this activity since its opening:

Divine Services

Number conducted on Sundays	473
Attendance	79,971
No. receiving Communion	24,923
Week-day Masses	867
Week-day Attendees	17,983
Morning Prayer Services	195
Morning Prayer Attendance	3,030
Blessed Sacraments	28
Blessed Sacrament Attendance	4,679
Stations of the Cross	21
Stations of the Cross Attendance	1,763
Communion (Bed Patients)	1,539
Recitation of Rosary	96
Recitation of Rosary Attendance	1,322
Baptisms	81
Marriages	65
Funerals	5

Secular Activities

Lectures, Sing-songs, choir
rehearsals, etc. 228
Attendance 21,896
Entertainments (other than movies) 12
Visits to sick in Hospital and men in brig.. 11,822
Number of letters written re. men 1,311

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Through the inspiration of the Hospital's first full-time chaplain, the "Bedside Examiner" came into existence and published its first issue on 24 September 1943. The chaplain's department, in co-operation with the Red Cross and other departments of the Hospital, have done various things to boost the morale of the patients and staff. At Christmas time Nativity Scenes were reproduced and set up in front of the Hospital. Special V-J Services of prayer and thanksgiving were held.

Divine services were also held at the Hospital Corps School during part of its existence. Each new group of students upon arrival at the School was greeted by the Chaplains. Each draft of overseas patients likewise was met by the Chaplains and encouraged to avail themselves of the use of this department.

X-ray, Electrocardiograph and Basal Metabolism Depts.

The following statistics are recorded for the work of the above mentioned departments:

X-ray

1943 - Total Examinations	5,974
Total Films	12,859
1944 - Total Examinations	20,643
Total Films	41,255
1945 - Total Examinations	14,053
Total Films	52,837
TOTAL Examinations	<u>40,670</u>
TOTAL Films	<u>86,951</u>

Electrocardiograph and Basal Metabolism

1943 - EKG	2,439
1944 - EKG	5,278
1945 - EKG	<u>2,123</u>

TOTAL 9,840

1943 - Basal Metabolism	464
1944 - Basal Metabolism	770
1945 - Basal Metabolism	<u>471</u>

TOTAL 1,705

Patient Personnel

The patient personnel office, one of the Hospital's newer and busier activities was established late in 1944 as a separate office from the staff personnel office. This became necessary because of the rapid growth of the patient load and the special problems that must be handled for patient personnel that are not involved with staff personnel. This office has the huge responsibility of handling the receipt, transfer and discharge of all patients at this institution.

Each month approximately 800 patients are admitted to this Hospital. The figure of 800 patients is based on an average taken from admissions during the first half of 1945. With each admission there are at least 10 clerical procedures that must be filled. The failure of evacuees to be supplied with records increases the clerical responsibility.

The various entries made in the service record, include medals, citations, punishments, promotions, dependency, and family allowances. Anything else pertaining to the patient's stay in the hospital is usually filed in his hospital jacket.

Another tedious job performed by the office is that of furnishing information to the disbursing office about the pay and allowances of patients. In addition the processing of records for the discharge from the Naval Services of approximately 250 patients a month must be cared for. This requires between 10 and 15 completed clerical forms.

The task of initiating steps for the procurement of new identification cards or replacement of worn ones is another item in the office's list of work.

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Each month approximately 550 patients are returned to duty status and all the necessary records for these patients must be kept up to date.

One of the duties added to this office during the peak load was the issuing, distribution and keeping of records of all patient tobacco ration cards. This continued until tobacco rationing was abolished in the early fall.

The month of October 1945, was the period when this office discharged from the Naval Service by reason of medical survey, the impressive number of over 700. This number does not include the Coast Guard personnel who were transferred to Seattle, Washington, for discharge, or the Marine Corps personnel who were handled by the U. S. Marine Corps Casual Company and other Marine activities.

Welfare & Recreation

The department was organized 1 April 1943. The welfare program was limited to offering movies, band instruments, billiard tables, radios, occasional dances, and some athletic equipment.

In the month of January 1944, a full time officer was assigned. Two bowling alleys, a gym, the "Mirror Room", two handball courts, The Bedside Examiner (Hospital Newspaper), library, athletic gear locker, Welfare Office, and numerous other facilities and supplies were added.

In December 1944, a full-time welfare assistant, was added to the department with specific instructions to emphasize recreational activities for Waves particularly. Interest skill sheets were distributed to each Wave. Girls who responded as having above average interest or skill were chosen as nuclei for teams or activity groups. The scheduled activities included ski trips, bowling tournaments, swimming, instruction in rifle target shooting, basketball, chorus, and bridge.

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About this time also battle casualties from the Pacific Theater started coming in including a great number of neuro-psychiatric cases. The recreational program for patients was therefore greatly modified to include activities for men who were mentally, not physically ill. Off station trips in nearby towns, athletic contests, golf, dances, dinners, ski trips, and boat trips specifically for patients were added to the Welfare Program.

Camp Beamin, with all it's recreational and athletic facilities was formally taken over by the Naval Hospital. This meant the inclusion of a drill hall, swimming pool, recreation building with a lounge, ship's service, small stores, more pool tables, laundry, and bowling alleys. New additions to the program, with the assistance of the Red Cross, included a musical comedy,

publicity skits, and a series of radio programs broadcasted from the Hospital auditorium.

As possibly gathered by now, the philosophy of Welfare & Recreation is to make available to all patients and staff personnel any and all facilities and equipment. By cooperating with the Station Welfare Department, it was possible to have riding stables on the station, use the golf driving range, fire on the outdoor rifle range, use the skeet range, and use the Welfare Yacht Club. Through the cooperation of the Transportation Department, it was possible to furnish transportation for all scheduled off-station trips.

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Ship's Service

In January of 1943 the Hospital Ship's Service was composed of a store, fountain, barber shop, beauty shop, and laundry agency. A tailor shop was added to the list of activities in 1944, in addition to enlarging the entire Ship's Service building, thereby increasing the volume of business. In the early part of 1945 the Ship's Service, in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Department, added an engraving shop and watch repair shop. The number of employees was doubled as was the volume of sales.

The Ship's Service has carried in the past as complete a line of stock as a department store with merchandise, from all parts of the U.S.

In September 1945 the peak month was reached with sales of \$120,107.40. Below are listed the vital statistics from January 1943 to September 1945:

Sales - February 15, 1943 to December 1943	\$338,969.34
Net Profit - February 15, 1943 to Dec- ember 1943	44,492.42
Transferred to Welfare	29,024.40
 Sales - 1944	513,937.03
Net Profit - 1944	40,154.44
Transferred to Welfare	30,134.13
 Sales - January 1945 to September 26, 1945	549,856.97
Net Profit - 1945	50,144.66
Transferred to Welfare - 1945	33,186.75

Rehabilitation

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Rehabilitation began at this hospital in June 1943, when the medical officer in charge of the orthopedic department found it advantageous to keep the boys engaged in constructive activity to occupy their long hours. The object was for morale purposes; the work of a vocational nature.

August 1944 the same officer who had started the project in a small way was appointed as the officer in charge of the Physical Therapy Department and Rehabilitation. Extra effort was then put forth in contacting the many friendly clubs and other sources to obtain equipment and material to set up a Rehabilitation Project. Space was still not available so large number of old carpenter shacks were moved together and a Rehabilitation Village formed. At that time the woodwork shop and the radio shop were enlarged and a landscaping department started.

About October 1944, a Wave officer was assigned to the Hospital as an Occupational Therapy Technician and shortly thereafter, one ward was assigned to that division and unified effort

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was put forth to equip this space with the essentials to do Occupational Therapy. The following activities were soon in operation: art shop including, oil painting, water color, charcoal works, pastels, lettering, poster work, sign painting, mechanical drawing; small woodwork (inlay), carving (small lathe); weaving, small metal craft, leather work, photography, sewing and tailoring, fly tying, engraving, watch repairing, barbering, cabinet making, welding, printing, gardening, radio repair work, lapidary, refrigeration, typewriter repair work, plastic shop, power tools, hand tools, electricity, motor machinist work, and machinist work.

Physical Therapy being a branch of this department although established with some equipment with the founding of this Hospital was badly in need of mechanical devices to carry on so that Rehabilitation Department shops responded to the making of many very essential pieces of equipment.

On October 1944 the staff consisted of three officers and twelve instructors. In January 1945 staff personnel was increased to sixteen. Additional staff was added to Physical Training and Occupational Therapy early in 1945 bringing the total to thirty-eight.

Early in 1945 the Hospital changed from a boot type to that of overseas casualties. They arrived in large drafts and the whole program of Rehabilitation was stimulated. Space again was inadequate but with the assigning of Camp Bevillion to the Hospital in April 1945, larger and more complete shops were established.

For a considerable period of time the organization found it necessary to work on a.m. and p.m. basis. The boys were doing a large amount of personal work and in addition turning out many projects to help in maintaining the Hospital.

Many boys have taken part in the department in such a way that they have decided to follow a new line of work and many of them especially in radio, watch making and engraving, fine arts, barbering and cabinet work have established shops of their own when they were discharged to civilian life.

Physical Training has been an important part of the department. Three officers and 19 specialists were sent by the Bureau of Personnel.

Most of the instructors were selected from the Hospital Corps according to their background in a particular field, so that every shop was manned by competent personnel. Summary of patient activities in the following departments of Rehabilitation shows:

Physical Training	13,450 patients
Occupational Therapy	3,235 patients
Physical Therapy (total treatments)	
1943	14,237
1944	19,649
1945	<u>35,338</u>
TOTAL	69,244

Educational Services

In order to bridge the gap of war and peace, the Bureau of Naval Personnel established under its Training Program an Educational Services Section, 3 February 1943. The Section was charged especially with providing educational opportunity for the off-duty time of

naval personnel. With the belief that a well informed person is a better citizen, the Educational Services Section accepted the challenge to help naval personnel adjust to their new situations.

The Educational Services Program was placed on trial in Naval Hospitals in August 1943. When the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery formally established the Rehabilitation Program, seventeen Naval Hospitals had already been supplied with Educational Services Officers by the Bureau of Naval Personnel. The contribution of these officers led to the incorporation of Educational Services as an important part of Rehabilitation.

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Educational Services Staffs are charged with developing instruction and training for patients and staffs of Hospitals. The program includes classes of both high school and college level, correspondence courses, educational and vocational guidance films, discussions and the background and progress of World War II. Military training is also processed for possible school credit.

During the year 1945, five officers and three enlisted personnel devoted full time to the Educational Services work in the USN Hospital, Farragut, Idaho. For the dates 15 January 1945 to 1 November 1945, the following statistics are noted:

- a. Number of classes 51; students 260
- b. Individual instruction 1565 students
- c. Armed Forces Institute Courses 368
- d. Counseling Interviews 6199
- e. Orientation given to 12,630 personnel
- f. Tests given 154
- g. Educational information letters 663
- h. Military training processed to schools 743

Hospital Switchboard

When the Hospital was near completion a Stromberg Carlson PBX switch was installed by the Interstate Telephone Company.

The Hospital at this time, January 1943, was small, and so was the switchboard. It had only four phones; the Commanding Officer quarters, his office, the information desk, and the accounting office.

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This situation soon improved and by March 1943, the 100 lines on the first PBX, switchboard were used up and a second position became necessary. It was installed on March 17, 1943, and this second 100 lines were used up as the board became busier.

Still the Hospital grew; and with it, the switchboard. The number of calls had increased to a point where two operators could not handle the traffic. A detailed study by a peg-county expert, revealed that 842 calls per hour of various types were being handled by the operators, making a total of over 5,000 calls between the hours of 0800 and 1600. A third position became necessary and was installed in August, 1944.

Three separate PBX boards would have been difficult to handle, so they were incorporated into a three-position multiple switchboard. Still the traffic increased as many as 840 calls per hour being handled between 0800 and 1600 in an average day. A fourth position was contemplated and its installation was becoming imminent when V-J day arrived. Then slowly and steadily it began to ease off as the Hospital complement diminished.

During all twenty-four hours of the day there is at least one operator on duty to perform the necessary services.

Hospital Corps School

The U. S. Naval Hospital Corps School, Farragut, Idaho, was established and commissioned on January 4, 1943, with Captain H. S. Harding (MC), USN, as Commanding Officer, who was succeeded by Captain A. C. Smith (MC), USN, on 23 April 1945.

The staff for this activity began to arrive September 1942.

A six-week course was established with the original class of 300 men quartered in Camp Peterson on the USN Center. On January 13th 1943 they moved into the present school barracks. January 25th, the mess hall at the Naval Hospital was opened, thus enabling the men to obtain more convenient meal service.

Three weeks after the original class arrived, the second class of 300 men began their schooling. Thus a rotation was set up, whereby 300 men graduated every three weeks and a new class took their place. These men concentrated on the following subjects during their six-week stay: Anatomy and Physiology, First Aid and Minor Surgery, Weights and Measures, Chemical Warfare, Materia Medica, Hygiene and Sanitation, and Nursing. The students were given their instruction by the officers, nurses and enlisted staff, which numbered thirty-eight.

The first class graduated February 12, 1943, and since that time 94 classes have received their initial corps training here. Each class was given a formal graduation in the School's Auditorium.

In October 1943, the student body was enlarged from 600 to 800 and one of the barracks of the Hospital was used to quarter the increase.

During the three years, the length of the course was changed from 6 weeks to 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 16 weeks and finally back to 7 weeks.

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Late in 1944, the staff was increased to include nine officers, ten nurses and fifty enlisted men. Pharmacy, chemistry and bacteriology, with appropriate laboratories, were added to the curriculum. At this time the staff numbered 15 registered Pharmacists, 8 morticians, all qualified regular Naval Personnel, and many men whose previous profession has been teaching.

When the school was operating at capacity, the enrollment was over 1000. The last class graduated October 26, 1945, and one hundred and ten future corpsmen were sent to the various Naval Hospitals.

The official decommissioning of the Corps School was October 31, 1945. Over 17,000 trained corpsmen have passed through the portals of this naval institution.